

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

New claim 32, requiring the presence of 30-50% urea, has been added, support for which exists in the examples of the present application as well as at page 4, lines 12-13.

Claims 13-32 are currently pending, although claims 22, 23, 25 and 30 have been withdrawn from consideration.

The Office Action rejected claims 13-16, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 30 under 35 U.S.C § 103 as obvious over U.S. patent 5,720,949 ("Davis"), U.S. patent 5,656,280 ("Herb"), UK patent application GB 2,092,444 ("Brun"), U.S. patent 5,690,945 ("Bui-Bertrand") and U.S. patent 4,538,728 ("Franklin"); claims 24 and 29 under 35 U.S.C § 103 as obvious over Davis, Herb, Brun, Bui-Bertrand, Franklin and U.S. patent 5,972,359 ("Sine"); claims 17-19 under 35 U.S.C § 103 as obvious over Davis, Herb, Brun, Bui-Bertrand, Franklin, Sine and U.S. patent 4,014,995 ("Juliano") and U.S. patent 4,333,927 ("Ofuchi"); claim 28 under 35 U.S.C § 103 as obvious over Davis, Herb, Brun, Bui-Bertrand, Franklin and U.S. patent 6,231,840 ("Buck"). In view of the following comments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

The Office Action recognized that Davis does not teach or suggest adding at least 20% urea to his compositions. In an attempt to compensate for this fatal deficiency, the Office Action asserted that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add 20% urea to such compositions because Davis states that 0-25% nonliquid organic material can be added to his compositions. (See, Office Action at page 7, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph). However, this assertion is based upon a misinterpretation of Davis.

Davis states (at col. 4, lines 52-53) that the nonliquid organic materials in his compositions "are of a hydrophobic nature and are not readily soluble in water." Urea does not satisfy this definition. Accordingly, when one of ordinary skill in the art would search for an acceptable organic material to add to Davis' compositions in an amount of 0-25%, he

would not have been led to urea, but rather to a hydrophobic compound not readily soluble in water. Stated another way, in the passage relied upon by the Office Action, Davis actually teaches away from adding urea to his compositions.

At any rate, Davis never teaches, suggests, nor recognizes that large amounts of urea can be added to a composition, and that an effective peeling composition would result. This is particularly true for new claim 32 – even under the Office Action’s interpretation of Davis, Davis would not have led to compositions containing so much urea.

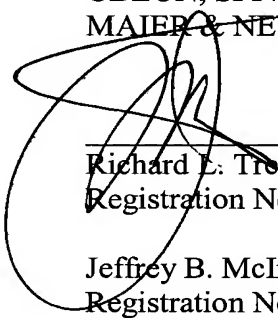
The numerous secondary references do not compensate for Davis’s fatal deficiencies. Nothing in any of the secondary references would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Davis’s teachings in a manner directly contrary to such teachings with the expectation that an acceptable result would follow.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C § 103.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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